



# P R O P O S A L S

To the P U B L I C;

ESPECIALLY

Those in P O W E R : &c.



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PROPOSALS

To the PUBLIC

ESPECIALLY

Those in POWER: &c.

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# PROPOSALS

TO

The P U B L I C;

ESPECIALLY

## Those in POWER:

Whose Spirits may be sincere enough, at all  
Events, by a brisk MILITIA, to save  
*GREAT-BRITAIN.*

Likewise to regain the important Island of *Minorca*,  
besides our late Possessions in *America*, and  
those famous Places that were lately lost,  
for Want of more disciplined Forces,  
in *GERMANY*.

Respectively inscribed to their Royal Highnesses,  
**GEORGE, PRINCE of WALES, and**  
**PRINCE EDWARD.**

By J. RAILTON: VETERAN.

L O N D O N:

Printed in the Year M,DCC,LVIII.

P R O P O S A L S

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in Harvard College library  
May 19, 1938

THE PUBLIC

EXHIBIT

Those in POWER

Whole Spine may be broken enough, at all  
Even, by a pink M...  
GENT-B...M...

...to regain the important ...  
...the ...  
...for ...  
...in ...

Respectively ...  
GEORGE ...  
PRINCE ...

BY ...  
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Forwell  
Printed in the ...  
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# A peculiar Address

TO

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS,

# GEORGE,

Prince of WALES.

*Most Gracious Prince :*

**I** HAVE had the honour to serve Your Royal Grandfather, with all due regard, the greatest part of his most happy reign; yet can sincerely say, that scarce any warrior, in my real opinion, ever served a better Sovereign upon earth: But, as earthly Potentates are all mortal; whensoever the King of Kings shall crown His Majesty with celestial Glory, Britons must then expect Your Royal Highness, the next Heir Apparent, will candidly accept and wear His Terrestrial Crown:  
Upon

Upon which weighty consideration, now I am judged too far advanced in years to wield a sword, yet willing to shew myself a useful subject, I therefore tender this well-meant work as performed with my pen; not presuming too much on my single judgment, nor my own experience, but submit the same plan with pleasure, to a plurality of superior judges.

Especially my renowned Liege in Council:  
 — Likewise our eximious Generalissimo:  
 — The Master and Lieutenant Generals of Ordnance: — All the Lord Lieutenants of England and Wales: — Namely, his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, first Lord of the King's Treasury: — Also that noble Patriot, the most Honourable Marquis of Rockingham, Lord of the Bed-chamber to His Majesty: Being in great hopes of having my fervent scheme recommended to the British Parliament, by such famous patrons for the Army's welfare, through my firm confidence of so many leading Personages, to grant me a fair countenance and joint protection.

Notwithstanding the great Age of our gracious Monarch, provided these Proposals be speedily carried into Execution, his Majesty may yet live to see the good Effects of my Labours, that will vastly satisfy my zealous  
 Ambition.

## D E D I C A T I O N. lvii

Ambition to oblige a benevolent Master: otherwise, I hope, your Royal Highness will quickly see an exert young Militia, very well qualified as they get proper strength, even to fight in Your defence, with true British fortitude, against any perfidious opposers: So that Your most courageous Uncle, the brave heroic Duke of Cumberland (my native county) may far better defy the restless power of France, or any imperious foe, that shall be desperate enough to resist his arms.

Doubtless Your Royal Highness, when a Minor, had both daily and hourly tutors, that would almost require Your constant attention; even to attain those liberal arts and sciences, besides such different languages, by turns, as seems absolutely necessary for an Heir to the Crown of England: Therefore I presume that Your Grandfire's loyal subjects, namely, the affectionate parents of delightful children, cannot reasonably object against two sorts of teachers for their favourite sons; but rather will animate all such pretty little pert minions, whose natural propensity may be set upon various pastimes, even to quit all such pernicious games, and to imitate the noble qualities of Your Royal Highness; not as puissant Princes,

Princes, by no means, but in warlike arts,  
to qualify themselves for serviceable subjects:  
So I shall refer these following paragraphs to  
Your serious consideration, and subscribe my-  
self, with all due submission;

G R E A T S I R,

Your Royal Highness's

most faithful, most dutiful,

and most obedient

humble Servant

to command:

John Railton.

P R O-



# PROPOSALS

To the PUBLIC, &c.

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A Treatise entituled, The SCHOOL-BOY'S EMULATION; or, Their SECOND BEST EXERCISE: Design'd to prevent their eager pursuit of sundry diversions, and to imbue their volatile minds with heroic virtues, by learning them the excellent mystery of martial discipline; so that they may be annually formed into a National Militia; even without any manner of prejudice, or the least impediment, to their scholastical education: Therefore I recommend these fair Proposals, in duty to all our firm British Rulers, for the speedy regulation of a scholastic Militia.

*Most Worthy Patriots of all Ranks:*

**R**ELIGION has undoubtedly convinced my judicious readers, of real Christian principles, that our school-boys must first learn to glorify their Creator, since Divine Worship will always be accounted the best exercise in his sight: Whereas I judge, nay, partly affirm, that their second-best exercise consequently follows; so they should next be taught the use of arms, at all reasonable opportunities, according to the laws of nature, in readiness to defend their native country upon any emergent occasion.

B

Consider



Consider seriously of this weighty affair, so ye will perceive that many forward school-boys, whose capacities find encouragement, are well able to read their Bibles, if not conversant in the rudiments of Grammar, when they arrive at seven or eight years of age; and, without doubt, must then have some idea of their duty to the Deity: Howsoever, as they come to be nine or ten years old, I judge that some of their martial instructions should generally commence, since many poor lads are forced away at eleven or twelve; but all others should be successively continued in practice, at least, until they arrive at the age of thirteen or fourteen years; when many of the lower class go for apprentices, or menial servants, so they will certainly be the fittest persons to march in any Militia, and to fight in the room of their respective masters: since the Scripture says, *Train up a child in the way he should go, when he is young; and, when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

Perhaps I shall meet with some people that will ask (as a great ruler over the Jews, queried about the New Birth; saying to our Saviour, — *How can this thing be?*) viz. How can we find a sufficient number of small-arms, for all the school-boys of Great Britain, suitable to every young person's size, and strength of Body? But, whensoever the Public, or any particular Personages in power, may be pleased to give me an order, I shall quickly answer that question; peradventure, with several others, that they shall propose in reason, upon the same subject: namely, by shewing them how different counterfeits, of any size, may be made at an easy expence; with some pattern firelocks and bayonets, if such patterns should be required, that will answer the learner's end of exercise in great perfection,

fection, if not equal to the best arms in his Majesty's Tower of London.

Having thus contrived counter-firelocks for a young Militia, I may probably be asked this following question; — Where shall we find proper masters, duly qualified, to teach so many scholars their military profession, without a vast expence to the public? In which case my answer is ready, as there commonly are disbanded soldiers enough in want of bread, that would probably instruct all our British youth with pleasure, on the small consideration of bed and board in their native countries; so that their pay from Chelsea College, if they have any out pensions, will supply them with decent apparel, and some pocket-money: Which method, I presume, must consequently prove a double benefit; not only by snatching many disbanded soldiers from extreme wretchedness, seemingly insupportable at present, but also by promoting the future service of our gracious King and Country.

Some people may probably object against old soldiers, as unfit persons to act for drill-serjeants, because they don't understand the Prussians exercise, that seems now vastly in vogue all over these Kingdoms: But, with great submission to such objectors judgment, I boldly presume, those men that are well versed in General Bland's Discipline, may soon be acquainted with the Prussians method, or any other exercise in Europe: More especially, if they be sent to learn such new motions by the Guards at London, where the most of our marching drill-serjeants were obliged to repair; perhaps, from all parts of Great Britain, before they could teach that same art to their respective regiments: Therefore I'm sure it stands to reason, that all ap-

pointed teachers of any Militia, without exception, should first take their instructions from the same fountain-head (especially till the marching regiments are all perfect) and must be well approved of by some experienced officers, relative to all the present methods in practice, that such a regulated Militia may readily join our regular forces upon the very first appearance of an invasion.

As England and Wales, according to calculation, contain 9291 parishes; most probably there may be some veterans, capable of teaching the military art, either in or near every parish: otherwise, there commonly are fit men enough in Chelsea College, as aforesaid, to supply the places of drill-serjeants; and, perhaps, will officiate as country school-masters likewise, where such double duty may be greatly wanted.

But I must caution all such invalids, whether they have been non-commission officers, or only private soldiers, who may have the honour of being appointed drill-serjeants on this occasion, *i. e.* never to beat nor abuse their young Militia under arms, upon any pretence whatsoever, on the penalty of being cashiered; neither to use any despicable gestures, nor provoking language, that they did not like themselves, when their hands and tongues were tied in the ranks! Altho' the case will be altered here, in a great measure; for their learners are not to consist of galley-slaves, nor sure lifted soldiers, but all aspiring volunteers, and recruits upon courtesy; therefore they must have all due encouragement, according to their genius and several capacities, so that their exercise may seem a pleasure, rather than a task enjoined by public authority.

Every

Every body, that has been acquainted with any sort of schools, must certainly know the past unlucky pranks of most scholars, in the long absence of their respective masters; namely, at Christmas, Easter, and Whitsuntide: Which three seasons they frequently have had five or six weeks holidays (so called) that were as frequently spent in ridiculous diversions; so they corrupted their morals of course, to the greatest degree, and commonly endangered their lives or limbs! Besides too much freedom at these constant festivals, with several others accidentally, most school-masters allow their scholars two half-days play every week, and two hours each of the other four days at dinner-time; whereas it is well known that one hour, or even a single half-hour, would be time fully sufficient to fill their bellies, or to empty all their satchels: Therefore I would have our promising school-boys employed at all such vacant seasons, when the weather will permit, in learning some of those useful arts, whereby they may shortly be enabled to defend the British nation.

In case every two of the aforesaid parishes, lesser with the larger, should have but twenty-four of their eldest school-boys yearly disciplined, they would amount to 111,492 young warriors, well train'd every year (above the number proposed by the late act, to be compleated these nine or ten ensuing years) howsoever, I am fully persuaded, that several ambitious striplings, by striving to excel each other in the famous arts of war, will not only be far more expert than a mature Militia, but likewise vye with our regular troops in twelve months time.

Whensoever such a Bill shall pass both Houses of Parliament, the most of our ablest school-boys  
in



in South Britain, by their boundless ambition for conquest in all other cases, must in course be well qualified for self-defence : Or even to act on the offensive part, with a rising emulation, and a firm resolution, according as they gather sufficient strength to carry fire-arms.

Yet I make no manner of doubt, but all his Majesty's loyal subjects, both in North Britain and Ireland, will quickly follow such a laudable example : so that we may have a large number of brisk lads, yearly trained up to Books and Arms (perhaps upwards of 200,000 every year) either fit for the British Army abroad, or marines and sailors in the Royal Navy ; not forgetting the privateers, nor yet the private ships of our adventurous merchants, where such disciplined forces may be strictly required : Besides, leaving brave fellows enough at home, to guard all our sea-coasts against the French, or any furious invaders under the sun, that shall dare attempt to set a foot in these realms.

What has given me great encouragement, the most of our young nobility (saith an experienced officer) " Are remarkably fond of their military duties ; for they seem to prefer the honour and real advantage of that service, either to their ease, or any private interest : "—As this is the true martial spirit, rarely to be found, but in personages of exalted virtue, I must take leave to instance a few of those great men, who lately shone in the Military World : viz.

King William III. of immortal memory: Read General Bland's Discipline, chap. viii. art. 1 :—The late Duke of Lorrain, famous for freeing the Empire from the Turkish yoke ; by raising the siege of Vienna, 1675, with great slaughter



tor of the Infidels. — The Viscount Turenne, Marshal of France; famous for his battles in Germany, and the reduction of Flanders to the French power. — Great John, Duke of Marlborough; his glorious victories are still recent, and whose memory will be ever dear to the Genius of Britain. — Great Eugene, Prince of Savoy, colleague with the Duke of Marlborough in his victories over the French. — Peter the Great, Czar of Muscovy; remarkable for founding a vast Empire, and cultivating a rude, unpolished multitude, by teaching them the arts of war, &c. with great success.

Our shining patterns, last mentioned, notwithstanding their high rank and superior personal endowments, (saith the same Veteran) “ Esteemed it both honourable and necessary, on their first sallying out of private life, to be well instructed, not only in the use and exercise of arms, but even in the most minute branches of all the common and extraordinary duties of the private centinel, as well as those of the officer: thus, by a well-grounded theory, they soon became masters of those warlike arts, which made them the real terror of their enemies, besides the emulation of succeeding ages.” — Since all those famed Generals achievements, acquired by alacrity, and remarkable humility, were of public utility, which seldom or never fails of accumulating honour; not only our noble youth, but likewise other general officers, would do well to imitate such brave heroes, that our immediate leaders may also be crowned with everlasting laurel.

We should likewise consider, at this important juncture, the rising virtues of their present Royal and Serene Highnesses; — the Duke of Cumberland, — the Prince of Orange, — and the young Prince

Prince of Sweden :—Since I am assured, notwithstanding their pre-eminent stations, they were all early inured to the lowest exercises, and then trained up gallant companies of courtiers sons from their infancy : which fair examples of these young warriors, set forth in a clear light, I dare almost venture to affirm, will raise a fine emulation in our aspiring scholars ; whose true friends may still encourage them further, by some free contributions towards gunpowder, and giving prizes for the best Marks-boys, as they grow expert in arms : since a number of butts are to be erected in their respective counties, for the better encouragement of a riper Militia ; I fancy our lads may borrow their firelocks upon all such occasions, in case they are not afraid of being beat with their own muskets.

Let our Rulers but seriously consider, as they are the best judges, what great objections were made in the senate these two years past, against any General Militia's being composed of grown men ? One session, I think, the bill was entirely rejected, as a method impracticable ; and, the very next meeting of Parliament, it seems, a proposal was made to the House for raising 60,000 directly ; but, after their sitting all the last spring, as it appears by an extract, the said Bill has only passed for 32,000 men : which small number must naturally be accepted, since our natives can spare no more from sundry occupations ; namely, without committing the most gross neglect, if not unpardonable crime, of cultivating their grounds !

Neither may so many grown persons be conveniently spared, in a promiscuous manner, to harraßs round the rugged country, merely for grand parades, and pompous rary-shows, at all commands, notwithstanding

notwithstanding our present danger! Unless we make a real dearth in the land, that may prove far worse at length (not for the poorest sort of people) than this long suspected, and still more perspicuous, artificial famine! Whereas our judicious Legislature, I do really believe, only nominated such a little number at long-run (compared with those multitudes of other powers) for immediate service in case of rebellion, or the needful satisfaction of many importunate constituents; whose just resentment, for the great disgrace and loss of Minorca, seemingly made them request such a numerous body of grown Militia, as their discreet representatives, after a long deliberation, might find extremely difficult and dangerous to effect! especially, at this critical conjuncture of national affairs.

Therefore I am very much afraid, that our riper Militia, suppose it be raised, will even dwindle away by degrees; if it don't die without redemption, during the next Peace, or whensoever the noise of our losses, and the clamour of War shall become dormant: But, nevertheless, with a proviso that these Proposals take place, according to my good intentions for the British Government; in all probability, a growing Militia may live so long as the world endures, and our posterity, that may still persevere, will seemingly prove one of the most warlike nations in it.

More especially, I presume, if their school-boys never play with battons and ball; hand-ball or foot-ball, tennis-ball, nor any such trifling toys: which great variety of destructive games, very likely will never be known to the next century, in case our fine scholars renounce them all directly, for the sake of learning some more useful and manly

divertisements: namely, the dexterous arts of playing their bombs and balls, if they must needs play with any sort of balls; either musket-ball, or some thundering cannon-ball, so that they may be able to annoy their encroaching enemies any way.

Questionless, those British parents of sublime notions, or being led by any peculiar motives, wanting their darling sons taught the noble art of Gunnery, may have several pensioners of well-known experience, by their long service in the Royal Train of Artillery; whose studious endeavours for their skill in theory, besides a series of actual practice, may likewise further appear on the same consideration, according to my proposals of bed and board for Chelsea College Pensioners. But, as a great many soldiers were disbanded, both Horse and Foot, after 15 or 16 years faithful service, without any benefit of the Royal Bounty; I therefore judge it very just and reasonable, that all such men should be first preferred, if they shall be found capable upon a strict enquiry, with respect to their past life and conversation: Which non-pensioners must have a small salary of course, besides their bed and board at free-cost, for their better encouragement, or be put upon the pension-list of their respective corps; remembering that all such appointed Teachers, according to my plan, must not only read, and write a plain hand, but likewise be selected men of sound morals.

By the vicious deportment, too often discovered in our soldiery, some people may be very apt to suspect, that we have no veterans of conscientious virtue; not so much as one of true morality amongst us, even to save our whole fraternity, altho' an Angel, or a Prophet, should plead our cause



cause before the Lord, as faithful Abraham pleaded for a wicked city in the Land of Canaan ! But, those wrong-headed people, that censure all our cloth so hard, for the sake of some licentious brethren, will certainly find themselves greatly mistaken, upon a fair scrutiny into all our actions : Notwithstanding there be many reprobates in the ranks (perhaps more hypocrites in the Churches) such impious persons, once perfectly discovered, are shunned by the rest every where else, to my certain knowledge.

Good reason why ; for I have been well acquainted with the British Army, at home and abroad, these last twenty-four years or upwards ; yet never knew a regiment without some religious officers, nor even a single troop or company without several devout soldiers ; whose virtues may vye with those censorious persons (that despise their protectors) of any other profession, perhaps in all our gracious Sovereign King George's dominions : Therefore I have a great opinion, and am pretty confident, how all impartial judges will readily allow, that our brave officers and soldiers, of such genuine dispositions to Christianity, moral honesty, and humanity ; whose persons were exposed to the shot of our adversaries abroad, for the nation's welfare, should not stand for shooting-butts, nor may-games after their safe return : Altho' our most valiant bands in former wars, now feeble disbanded servants, have frequently been remarked of late, in a very scornful and ridiculous manner, for the bolts of busy fops, or drunken fots upon alehouse benches at home !

Zealous affections for my native land, after all our great losses over-sea, judged for want of more such forces as are here disdained, chiefly occasions



all these just reflections: since the wisest of other Powers, by a current report, care for their careful warriors; many of our natives would probably do the same, in case they were but so well acquainted (as most exotic nations commonly are) with all the necessary duties of a military life: Therefore I recommend such experienced tutors for our youth, as were accustomed to religious exercises from their cradles, and alternately trained in the eminent discipline of war, even from their common schools or higher academies.

Being pretty well assured, as Britons were bred, according to the Scripture, they will always beat the same road; or, a great majority of brave men, at least, will maintain their integrity: so that such a select number of drill-serjeants, and respective school-masters, may assist each other; by leading up those brave lads in the fear of God alone, with an unfeigned regard for their native country, necessitous kindred especially, and a natural affection towards their trusty neighbours: Which virtuous qualifications of our scholars, well connected with their martial accomplishments, will in course prepare them effectually, at all events, for a vigorous defence of his Majesty's Crown and Dignity,

☞ Quickly after these foregoing paragraphs were composed, in August 1757, when I travelled about my own affairs, many of the country people seemed quite disaffected! whose names had lately been taken, in particular, by their respective constables, for a National Militia: Therefore I promised some of those rusticks, with God's permission the next National Assembly, to address the  
King

King and Government, that such like grievances might speedily be redressed.

Altho' some of our clod-hoppers seem to want cultivating, in several respects, more than those rude Muscovites afore-mentioned; but, we ought to consider, our country boors have the light of Scripture (that they seem dubious of losing entirely!) besides many other advantages of Liberty and Property; formerly unknown, if not yet mysterious, to the dark Muscovians! So that our folks must consequently be cultivated, whenever the attempt shall be made, with far more care, and more peculiar caution, than those rude unpolished rabble required, that were said to be so well disciplined by the famed Emperor of Muscovy.

Peradventure some of our leading men, that will not readily credit my faithful discoveries, may be fully convinced by going thro' Great Britain incognito, dressed like the poorest sort of our laborious country clowns: But, as such-like journeys, by way of stratagems, are not customary amongst our superiors at present; — in case the King and Council assembled, only vouchsafe me a speedy audience, I will engage my life to give them some peculiar advice, that shall most apparently merit their serious attention.

Unless our Legislature make some material amendments, by removing several objections to a late Act, the very next Session of Parliament, I doubt we shall have a Civil War amongst ourselves! Our daily bread being dear, husbandry work very cheap, and the labourers required to fight, or learn to form the hollow-square, for little or nothing, — are esteemed intolerable hardships! Our peck loaves, many people say, were usually sold for three shillings apiece, or upwards; but of late,

late, if not yet, now in October 1757, at about half a crown each loaf; which bread may well be afforded, as the most penetrating judges affirm, at eighteen pence a peck, so long as we have such great plenty of corn in the country: Therefore I hope our wise Rulers will take these friendly hints, meant for timely precautions (small hints, compared with the secrets reserved for his Majesty in Council) so as certain statutes, for our daily food, and poor peoples wages, may be rendered more agreeable to the Public: but still, far more suitable, at this ensuing season, to the unanimous satisfaction of those persons appointed for a National Militia.

Yet I would not be understood to mean, that the late Act should be entirely disannulled, thro' any vain presumption, on purpose to forward my own favourite scheme: No, my firm patriots, some articles of both schemes are so essential, in my real estimation, that I sincerely believe in my own conscience, either of the said plans alone, can't be well brought to any great degree of perfection, without being successively encouraged by the other part: Therefore I heartily wish for some necessary alterations in the said Act, or that all wealthy parishes would assume the same public spirit, according to their power, so as to follow the fine example of this subsequent vestry; supposed in the West Riding, Yorkshire, where the liberal Marquis of Rockingham is Lord Lieutenant:

*Daily Advertiser, Sat. Sept. 17, 1757.*

“ At a public meeting in the Vestry of Skipton,  
 “ in Craven, last week, it was unanimously agreed  
 “ in order for the more speedy and effectual car-  
 “ rying

“ rying the Militia Act into execution) to allow  
 “ one shilling and six-pence per day, at the ex-  
 “ pence of the town, to each person, who should  
 “ be thought a proper substitute for that pur-  
 “ pose.”

Virtue in one Vestry, so remarkably broke forth, as my reason dictates, should be sufficient to banish vice from all the rest; since the strict justice, and equal generosity, of these Vestry Gentlemen, on this urgent occasion, can never be too much admired, nor scarce enough imitated: But, howsoever the riper Militia may be ordered hereafter, our school-boys should have a parliamentary promise at first, for one half guinea a piece encouragement every week; otherwise a guinea every three weeks, besides their daily subsistence, during any unnatural rebellion, or an actual invasion: Which shining piece of pure gold for each person, meaning a fair prospect of such pretty coin, will consequently animate their juvenile spirits, as they come to be fifteen or sixteen years of age; even to vye at all events, upon their martial exercises, with any veteran forces in England, or to bid the vexatious foes of valiant Britons a bold defiance.

F I N I S.